

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE BILL ANALYSIS

AMENDMENT DATE: April 15, 2011
POSITION: Neutral
SPONSOR: California Public Defenders Association, Legal
Services for Prisoners with Children

BILL NUMBER: AB 1358
AUTHOR: F. Fuentes

BILL SUMMARY: Vehicles Misdemeanor: Violations: Amnesty

This bill authorizes a county to extend the one-time amnesty program for fines and bail for infraction violations of the Vehicle Code to certain misdemeanor violations.

FISCAL SUMMARY

Since the expansion of the program is discretionary, it does not impose a reimbursable mandate. Additionally, local governments and courts are authorized to pay administrative costs from fines paid through the amnesty program.

COMMENTS

Finance is neutral on the bill because it gives a county the option of extending the amnesty program to include certain vehicle code misdemeanor violations. By doing so, the county can collect 50 percent of the fine and can possibly avoid cost related to collection, apprehension, and incarceration.

Current law requires a county to establish a one-time infraction amnesty program for fines and bail for individuals who are unable to pay the fines, allowing them to pay to the court 50 percent of the fine or bail. This bill does not require a county to include misdemeanors in the amnesty program, but authorizes it. The bill does not allow fines for misdemeanor convictions for reckless driving or driving under the influence to be eligible for amnesty. Extending amnesty to misdemeanors would conform the current program to an amnesty program authorized in the 1990s.

Related Legislation: One of the 2010 trailer bills (Chapter 720, Statutes of 2010) authorized the existing amnesty program.

Analyst/Principal (0741) P. Abahazi	Date	Program Budget Manager Mark Hill	Date
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Department Deputy Director	Date
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Governor's Office:	By:	Date:	Position Approved _____
			Position Disapproved _____

BILL ANALYSIS	Form DF-43 (Rev 03/95 Buff)
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BILL NUMBER

AB 1358

		SO	(Fiscal Impact by Fiscal Year)							
Code/Department		LA	(Dollars in Thousands)							
Agency or Revenue		CO	PROP						Fund	
Type		RV	98	FC	2010-2011	FC	2011-2012	FC	2012-2013	Code
9990/Var Depts		SO	No	-----	See Fiscal Summary				-----	0994
<u>Fund Code</u>	<u>Title</u>									
0994	Other Unclassified Funds									